

REMARKS

Claims 28-50 are pending in this application. Claims 28-50 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Independent claims 28 and 31 have been amended. Reexamination, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested. These amendments are fully supported by the specification and drawings to one of ordinary skill in the art, and no new matter has been added.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st ¶

Claims 28-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one of ordinary skill in the art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Independent claims 28 and 31 have been amended as discussed with the Examiner. This newly-added limitation is in accordance with the language in paragraph 5 of the Office Action (“it must be noted that the claims do not specify the exclusion of compounds capable of undergoing a Diels-Alder reaction, but rather the present [i.e., rejected] claims require the flat exclusion of compounds containing conjugated double bonds in any form”). This new language finds support in the specification as understood by one of skill in the art, *see e.g.* Negele Declaration, ¶¶ 3-6. This rejection has been obviated and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

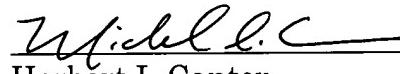
It is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered and that claims 28-50 be allowed. It is believed the claims are in condition for allowance and early notice thereof is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #225/44173).

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

Marked-up Version of Amended Claims

28. (Amended) A method for corrosion-proofing a metal substrate, comprising:

applying a bond coating to the substrate, the bond coating comprising at least one organic adhesion-conferring polymer, wherein the at least one adhesion-conferring polymer comprises at least one polybismaleimide selected from the group consisting of: (i) a homopolymer comprising a bismaleimide, (ii) a homopolymer comprising a maleimide-terminated oligomer, (iii) a homopolymer comprising a maleimide-terminated polymer, (iv) a copolymer comprising a bismaleimide, (v) a copolymer comprising a maleimide-terminated oligomer, (vi) a copolymer comprising a maleimide-terminated polymer, and (vii) a copolymer of an organic compound having a terminal functional group which can be polymerized with a maleimide residue, but which does not undergo a Diels-Alder reaction [with the exception of conjugated double bonds], and at least one of compounds (i)-(vi); wherein the coating is applied from an aqueous solution, an organic solvent solution, a dispersion or an emulsion; and

subsequently stabilizing the bond coating on the substrate surface.

29 31. (Twice Amended) A method for corrosion-proofing a metal substrate, comprising:

- (a) cleaning and de-greasing a substrate;
- (b) applying a bond coating to the substrate, the bond coating comprising at least one organic adhesion-conferring polymer, wherein the at least one adhesion-conferring polymer comprises at least one polybismaleimide selected from the group

consisting of: (i) a homopolymer comprising a bismaleimide, (ii) a homopolymer comprising a maleimide-terminated oligomer, (iii) a homopolymer comprising a maleimide-terminated polymer, (iv) a copolymer comprising a bismaleimide, (v) a copolymer comprising a maleimide-terminated oligomer, (vi) a copolymer comprising a maleimide-terminated polymer, and (vii) a copolymer of an organic compound having a terminal functional group which can be polymerized with a maleimide residue, but which does not undergo a Diels-Alder reaction [with the exception of conjugated double bonds], and at least one of compounds (i)-(vi);

wherein the coating is applied from an aqueous solution, an organic solvent solution, a dispersion or an emulsion;

(c) stabilizing the bond coating on the substrate surface by heat or irradiation; and

(d) applying at least one paint coating on the substrate.